

THE EVENING STAR
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MILLION DOLLAR FIRE

Seven-Story Hower Block at Akron, Ohio, Destroyed.

YOUNG WOMEN IN PANIC

Firemen Escape Grave Danger From Falling Walls.

INCENDIARIES IN CHICAGO

Flames in Four Places Do \$100,000 Damage—Pyromaniac, Escaped From Asylum, Suspected.

AKRON, Ohio, May 18.—Fire in the seven-story Hower power block today destroyed the building and its contents, causing a loss which it is thought will aggregate \$1,500,000.

Several girls employed in the building had a narrow escape. Firemen were in danger from falling walls.

The building was occupied entirely by light manufacturing companies. There were upward of 200 employees in the building when the fire was discovered.

The blaze started in the basement. Occupants of the block had plenty of time to escape, although the young women were thrown into a panic. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Occupants of Building.
Among the occupants of the building are the Tip Top Glove Company, the Korach Skirt Company, the Akron Candy Company, the Egg Baking Powder Company, the Smith Pattern Company, the American Cereal Company, the Lombard and Reigel Engineering Company and the Neel & Armstrong Company.

The losses of these companies will run from \$5,000 to \$33,000 each.

Both the Goodrich Rubber Company and the Diamond Tire Company had many thousands of dollars' worth of automobile tires stored in the building. The tires are a complete loss.

There is about \$800,000 insurance on the building and its contents.

For a time it was thought the fire would spread to the adjacent block, which is next to the Hower block. The firemen were able to confine the flames to the Hower building.

Guests at the hotel were aroused, however, and made a hurried exit to the street scantily clad.

Four Fires in Chicago

Blamed Upon Pyromaniac

CHICAGO, May 18.—Four fires today, believed to have been of incendiary origin and in which one life was lost and property valued at \$100,000 was destroyed, caused increased activity in the search for Andrew Hanson, a pyromaniac who recently escaped from the asylum at Joliet.

In all since Hanson's escape there have been nineteen fires of questionable origin, the losses aggregating close to half a million dollars.

The first two were a barn at 47 Hastings street; Melcher Steiner, who lived in it, burned to death.

Lakeview Mercantile Company, 1058-62 Lincoln avenue; loss, \$100,000.

Flat building, 340 Fullerton avenue, blaze extinguished with loss of \$300.

Moving van in front of storage warehouse at 330-34 Sheffield avenue; loss, nominal.

INJURIES MAY PROVE FATAL

American's Auto Runs Down Workman in Paris—Machine Wrecked.

PARIS, May 18.—The automobile in which Thomas P. Thorne, the American race horse owner, now in Paris, was driving to the Maleson-Laffitte track this morning ran into a workman and inflicted injuries that probably will prove fatal.

The machine was going at high speed at the time. In trying to avoid the man the chauffeur swerved his car, which struck a tree and was badly smashed.

Thorne and the chauffeur each sustained slight injuries.

DARK CELLS SUBDUED THEM.

Chicago Prisoners Refused to Exercise With Negroes.

CHICAGO, May 18.—Four days of solitary confinement broke a "strike" among a score or more of prisoners on the first floor of the county jail. The "walkout" occurred when the men refused to exercise in the same corridors with negroes, although Jailer Davies told them they would be placed in solitary cells and fed only bread and water if they did not obey his rules.

The men defied the Jailer and ten of the most obstinate were placed in the darkened cells and kept there until they were told that they would obey. Then they were released.

STAR GOLFERS FOR TOURNEY.

Opening of Third Annual Tournament on Scarsdale Links.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

HARTSDALE, N. Y., May 18.—Eighteen of the best golf professionals in the United States, among them Alec Smith, the former, and Isaac Mackie, the present champion, were at the Scarsdale Golf Club this morning to open the third annual tournament of the Eastern Professional Golfers' Association.

The preliminary play was an eighteen-hole, four-ball match. Contrary to custom, the Philadelphia and Boston professionals have not entered the contest being that this is their busy season and they could not come on. The course was in fine condition and regular, and everything went off smoothly. In the gallery were the amateurs who doubled up this afternoon with the professionals for another four-ball match.

"Wild Man" Caught in Mississippi.

PRENTISS, Miss., May 18.—Sheriff Laird was captured in the swamps near here a man who has shunned civilization for five years, and whose occasional presence in isolated communities earned for him the title of "wild man." He was covered with only scanty portions of ragged garments, his nails were five inches long and his hair and beard reached down to his knees. He was found cooking food when it was offered to him. He was identified as Marvin Whitehead, whose relatives have long searched for him.

Noted Royal Arcanum Member Dies.

UTICA, N. Y., May 18.—Smith M. Lindsay, for years a prominent lawyer and past supreme regent of the Royal Arcanum, is dead here after a long illness.

No. 17,767.

WANT TO THE LEADERS

Revisionists Seek Concessions From High Rates.

OTHERWISE MUCH DELAY

Putting Up a Fight to Strengthen the House Conferees.

RISE TIDE OF RESENTMENT

Reports Brought Back by Representatives Who Have Been Back to Their Districts.

"Give us some concessions from your high rates, so that this will at least bear the semblance of an honest revision downward, and there will be an early vote. If you don't, it may take a long time to get to July, perhaps to set forth our reasons for the necessity of reductions."

This is the gentle intimation which has been conveyed to the finance committee high tariff men by the republicans who desire to send to President Taft for his signature a bill which he can look in the face without blushing. It is not in the nature of a threat to filibuster, it is explained. A filibuster in this case would react, it is felt, as the Senate leaders would immediately set up the cry that the business of the country was being delayed.

It is a suggestion in good faith, it is declared, that the revisionists will not submit to the imposition of the finance committee's high rates without exposing the situation to the country and will take such time in doing it as may be necessary. Some of the republican revisionists expressed the belief this morning that if the finance committee makes concessions, a vote might be reached early in June, about the 10th, perhaps.

The insurgents are not content to be put off with the promise that the concessions are to be made in conference. They don't propose to swap jackknives, "sight unseen," as they used to say in Uncle Joe Cannon's district.

On the contrary, one of the impelling motives in the present vigorous fight being made in the Senate for long delay by the insurgents is to strengthen the hand of the House conferees when the bill gets into conference. The conferees always lay great stress on the division of sentiment in the opposing body when they are fighting to sustain the action of their own chamber. The Senate insurgents desire to make it clear that the revision sentiment is strong in the Senate, and thus give good cheer to the House republicans who are struggling for low duties.

Resentment of the People.
Every day of delay in the Senate, it is claimed by the revisionists, serves to fix the attention of the country upon the fight for lower duties, and increases the pressure to be brought to bear upon Congress. Some of the members of the ways and means committee, who have visited their districts during the losing time of the House are bringing back grave reports of the temper of the people and the feeling of the country. There is a rising tide of resentment against the finance committee's high rates.

For one thing, the revisionists are having the support of the metropolitan press in the middle section of the country. Every Minneapolis and St. Paul newspaper except one, democratic and republican, is beating the bill. The Chicago newspapers, with the possible exception of one afternoon paper, are tearing the Senate's bill to shreds. St. Louis, Omaha, Kansas City and the smaller cities are following suit. The effect is being reflected in communications to congressmen, and in the street who hasn't the time nor the inclination to analyze the tariff question is being impressed with the view that he is getting the worst of it, somehow or other, at the hands of the Senate, and he is beginning to protest.

"Catered alone," the finance committee may find cogent reasons for its high rates, but its reasons are not being made clear to the country at large. Some senators feel that the committee is taking the attitude of the official of the New York Central railroad in his celebrated remark that the public is to be educated by the tariff.

There is one danger in the proposed plan of leaving the lowering of duties to the conferees to which the revisionists are not blind. The conference committee will have the opportunity, if it chooses, to force the acceptance of rates which might be objectionable, on the ground of closing up the bill. When the conference committee gets the bill together, the summer will be on them and all will be anxious to get away.

It is in such a situation that the conferees who are the best "stayers" usually win their point, and there is suspicion that the high tariff men are likely to do this. The bulk of the schedules will be offered for acceptance in gross and separate upon the tariff revisionists, a jolly little joke will find snug harbor under this practice.

For these considerations and some other downward revisionists in the Senate are inclined to insist that the finance committee make a showing of the promised reductions in the Senate and before the bill gets into conference.

"To put it perhaps brutally, but nevertheless truthfully, remarked a Senate republican to a Star man today, 'we know that what we get from the high tariff men will be what we can take from them by force; just that much and no more. They won't give us anything which they don't have to give us. And we propose to get all we can, so that this bill will not be a failure to the republicans party no insult to the intelligence of the country by claiming to be tariff revision when it is not revision as the people trusted the republican party to undertake and charged William H. Taft to see done.'"

CONFERENCE OVER FISH.

International Commission Meets at State Department This Month.

Friday, May 28, there will be a meeting at the State Department of the international commission appointed under the convention between the United States and Great Britain providing for the adoption of uniform and effective measures for the protection, preservation and propagation of the food fishes in waters contiguous to the United States and the Dominion of Canada.

The commissioners under that convention have been at work now for about a year, and have prepared a set of regulations governing close seasons, the character and size of nets and other apparatus used in fishing, and other protection of the fisheries.

David Starr Jordan is the United States commissioner.

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1909—TWENTY PAGES.



THE "EARLY START" MOVEMENT STRIKES SQUASH CENTER.

SLAIN BY BLACK HAND

Friend of Petrosino Victim of an Assassin.

SHOT ON HIS DOORSTEP

Pioggio Pucci Had Tried to Aid Dead Detective's Family.

HAD IGNORED WARNING NOTES

Dead Man an Officer in New York Italian Society—Widow Creates Scene Over Body.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, May 18.—An assassin, supposed to be a Black Hand, murdered Pioggio Pucci, the secretary and treasurer of a large Italian society, at his door early this morning, probably in requital for a friendship with the murdered detective, Petrosino. Puccio was a cigar maker in comfortable circumstances, and lived at 321 East 75th street.

Puccio was one of the few close friends of Petrosino. He and the detective had known each other for years, and used to dine at each other's houses. When Petrosino was brought home a few weeks ago from Palermo to be buried Puccio stepped forward and did his share in the arrangement of the Petrosino funeral. He was threatened for that, but paid no attention to some ugly communications that he received.

After the funeral Puccio got together with a few others and arranged for a performance in behalf of the family of Petrosino at the Academy of Music. The benefit was a failure, because the Italians would not come. They were frightened off by a threat of the Black Hand to blow up the academy, benefit, audience and all.

Puccio received other warnings at the time of his working for the benefit. They were of such a sort that his neighbors in the same house took panic, fearing a bomb or an incendiary fire that would endanger them all.

Fired on From Ambush.

Last night Puccio went out to attend a meeting of the fraternal organization of which he was secretary and treasurer, the Cortese Lodge, 446, of the Foresters of America, at 158 East 88th street. He must have started home shortly after midnight. It was about 12:30 o'clock when he reached the door of the house in 75th street, where he lived.

The Puccio flat is on the fourth floor, and he reached it by a back staircase. He was not far from his back. Out of the dark of the hallway there came a flash of powder. Puccio fell almost without an outcry and died before anybody reached him.

A man had evidently lurked in the stairway, waiting for Puccio's return. He had chosen the moment when Puccio stood still with his back turned and fired a single bullet into him almost at the muzzle end. He must, it is supposed, have sprung down across the victim's body and to the street.

In a few moments the house was in a commotion. A nephew, Giovanni Puccio, was the first to reach the body. Without waiting to identify it he ran out into the street to find the police. He brought back Policeman Shaw of the East 67th street police station. The policeman called an ambulance from the Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Rouse found that the wound had proved almost instantly mortal.

Widow's Wishes Not Respected.

A distressing scene came after the shooting. Some one called up the coroner, who off handedly gave an order over the tele-

MRS. TAFT RECOVERING

Will Not Accompany the President to Petersburg.

MAY TAKE TRIP SATURDAY

Plans to Go Down to Hampton on the Dolphin.

NERVOUS BREAKDOWN MONDAY

Visit to Mount Vernon With the President and a Small Party of Friends Interrupted by Illness.

Mrs. Taft, who suffered a nervous breakdown yesterday, was much improved today. After the call of Dr. Delaney, the attending physician, at the White House this morning it was announced that the President's wife had rested comfortably and was much better.

Although Mrs. Taft was much improved today, it was said at the White House that she would not undertake to go to Petersburg and Charlotte with President Taft tomorrow morning. Charlie Taft, the youngest son of the President, whose tonsils were removed yesterday, has returned to the White House from the hospital and is getting along nicely.

Mrs. Taft's illness.

Mrs. Taft became ill yesterday while on a trip down the Potomac river with the President and a small party of friends on the Sylph. The excitement, heat and exertion, as the President himself expressed it, were too much for her. She slept well last night, however, and was considerably rested. Dr. Delaney called shortly after 9 o'clock and was satisfied with the progress she was making in recovering from the nervous collapse.

President Taft himself last night prepared the following statement in regard to Mrs. Taft's suffering from a slight nervous attack. She attended the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital this morning, where Charles Taft underwent a slight operation on his throat. She was with him for several hours. She then started with the President and a small party of friends on the Sylph for Mount Vernon. The excitement, heat and exertion were too much for Mrs. Taft's nerves, and the country was obliged to make a brief stop at Alexandria. Mrs. Taft was quickly carried to the White House. The doctor says that after a few days of complete rest Mrs. Taft may be able to resume her social duties. Dr. Delaney is in attendance. Mrs. More, Mrs. Taft's sister, who was with her at the hospital, is also attending to her.

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Weather.

PLACE FOR WASHBURN

Succeeds Williams as Civil Service Commissioner.

CLARK ALASKA GOVERNOR

President Names Newspaper Man for Important Post.

OHIO APPOINTMENTS SETTLED

Nominations Made Satisfactory to Senator Burton, But Not Senator Dick—New House China.

William S. Washburn, well known in this city, was today named by President Taft as civil service commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Williams, Jr., whose ill health compels him to go to New Mexico.

Mr. Washburn has been named wholly on his merit and record and without political pulls. He was for years connected with the civil service commission in a clerical capacity. Then he was offered a position as civil service commissioner in the Philippines. There he served under Gov. Taft, winning the latter's good will. He continued to serve after the departure of Mr. Taft to take up his duties as Secretary of War, but recently resigned to come back to Washington to enter upon private work. He did not know of the intention of the President to honor him with a position on the commission.

Mr. Washburn came to Washington a number of years ago, beginning his work upon the civil service commission in a subordinate capacity. It was in the Philippines that he showed great executive and constructive ability.

For Governor of Alaska.
Another nomination of interest to Washington sent to the Senate today was that of Walter E. Clark, Washington newspaper correspondent, as Governor of Alaska, succeeding Gov. Hoggatt, resigned. Gov. Hoggatt was appointed three years ago, and has, like all governors of the territory, had much trouble. He has been opposed by the insurgents and warmly supported by others. He got tired of it all and resigned to enter private business. Mr. Clark has represented the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in Washington for years, and is thoroughly familiar with Alaskan affairs, having traveled through the territory.

He was selected by President Roosevelt for the same place three years ago, but Piles the name did not go to the Senate. Mr. Clark will enter upon his new duties as soon as he is confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Clark has lived in Washington for fourteen years, and is well known here. President Taft hopes that his nomination will make for harmony in Alaskan affairs.

Mr. Clark was born in Ashford, Conn., in 1868, graduating from the Connecticut Normal School in 1887 and from Wesleyan University in 1891. Succeeding graduation he entered newspaper work as a reporter on the Hartford Post, coming to Washington in 1898 as a telegraph writer for the Washington Times. He has been on the New York Sun staff for eight or ten years in addition to his work on the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The White House made a statement that the nomination of Mr. Clark was made on the basis of his long experience in the special consideration to Alaska with a view to bringing together conflicting interests and permitting the natural development of the territory.

The President also sent to the Senate the following nominations:
United States marshal for the northern district of Ohio, David J. Davis, Appraiser of merchandise at Cleveland, Herbert J. Grant.

Collectors of customs for the Ohio River, Alfred N. Rodway, eighth district of Ohio; Willis H. Bowland, eleventh district of Ohio. Collector of customs for Montana and Idaho, John G. Blair. Receiver of public moneys at Woodward, Okla., Charles C. Hoag of Oklahoma.

Ohio Patronage Settled.

President Taft, after a conference this morning with Senator Burton, took things in his hands and settled some Ohio patronage cases that have been hanging. He settled them, too, in a manner satisfactory to Senator Burton and not to the liking of Senator Dick. He sent to the Senate the nomination of Hyman D. Dacy, a regular republican leader, like Senator Frank Chandler, whose retention was asked for by Senator Dick. Herbert J. Grant was sent as appraiser of merchandise at Cleveland in place of M. G. Norton. Alfred N. Rodway was made collector of internal revenue at Cleveland in place of Francis McCord and Will G. Bowland was made collector of the Columbus-Athens district.

Favor Income Tax.

President Taft has been informed that senators of both parties favoring an income tax have decided to put forward a compromise bill for such a tax and to make it a condition of support that the President will sign it. The President was told today that an important meeting of income tax senators was held at the Capitol last night, at which the determination was reached to pass a bill at this session. It is said, showed strength enough to warrant an open aggressive fight.

The President himself will not put any stumbling block in the way of an income tax. Personally he favors an inheritance tax as the first remedy for increasing revenues if this is necessary. His next method would be to impose an excise tax on corporations and the third remedy would be the income tax. The regular republican leaders like Senator Aldrich have told the President that an income bill is not necessary and that a tariff bill will be enacted that will furnish regular revenues for the government. They will fight the proposition of the insurgents and democrats.

White House China Collection.

The White House collection has recently received a valuable addition to the presidential china, which was placed upon the shelves of the cabinet room. The collection represents of all but four of the presidential administrations, the relics of the individual Presidents are by no means considered complete. Mrs. Taft, whose interest in all historical matters pertaining to the White House is well known, is quite as determined as Mrs. Roosevelt in starting it—that the collection shall be complete and that the dignity of the historic old mansion.

Some time ago the widow of a nephew of President Fillmore, wrote the superintendent of public buildings and grounds suggesting that some of the Fillmore tableware could doubtless be obtained for the White House collection at